

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of qualifying a private customer for space flight, comprising the steps of:

- enrolling the private customer into a space flight qualification program;
- administering a space flight qualification program comprising the steps of:
 - subjecting the private customer to medical evaluations related to space flight;
 - subjecting the private customer to simulated space environments;
 - familiarizing the private customer with spacecraft interiors and equipment related to space flight; and
 - evaluating the private customer as qualified or unqualified for training and/or actual space flight based on successful completion of the space flight qualification program; and
- concluding the qualification program with certification of the private customer for space flight, wherein the method of qualifying is independent of flying the private customer into space;

wherein the step of administering the space flight qualification program is performed, at least in part, using at least one of medical equipment and space flight related equipment.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- subjecting the private customer to increased and/or decreased gravity (G) forces to simulate gravity.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- educating the private customer regarding space flight and/or spacecraft operation.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- training the private customer for space flight.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the training is for sub-orbital space flight.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the training is for orbital space flight.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 4, further comprising:
transporting the private customer on a space flight.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the space flight is a sub-orbital space flight.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the space flight is an orbital space flight.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the space flight qualification has a duration of about two weeks.

11. (Original) A method of using a space flight training facility, the facility comprising a first apparatus for simulating exterior space environments, a second apparatus for familiarizing the private customer with spacecraft interiors and medical evaluation equipment, the method comprising, for a private customer:

using the first apparatus to subject the private customer to exterior space-simulating environment;

using the second apparatus to familiarize the private customer with spacecraft interiors and equipment related to space flight;

using the medical evaluation equipment to subject the private customer to a

battery of medical tests; and

qualifying the private customer for space flight based on successful use of the equipment independent of whether the private customer travels into space.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, the method further comprising:
using an apparatus to subject the private customer to increased and/or decreased gravity (G) forces to simulate gravity.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, the method further comprising:
using educational facilities to educate the private customer regarding space flight and/or spacecraft operation.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, the method further comprising:
using the first and second apparatus to train the private customer for space flight.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the private customer is trained for sub-orbital space flight.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the private customer is trained for orbital space flight.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
transporting the private customer on a space flight.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the space flight is a sub-orbital space flight.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the space flight is an orbital

space flight.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the method is carried out over a duration of about two weeks.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of space flight qualification comprising:

(a) a step for enrolling a private customer;

(b) a step for determining the medical fitness of the private customer, using, at least in part, medical equipment;

(c) a step for educating said private customer on aspects of space flight and engineering and dynamics related to space flight;

(d) a step for exposing the private customer to a microgravity environment for a predetermined duration;

(e) a step for exposing the private customer to at least one of increased and decreased gravity (G) forces to simulate gravity loads experienced during one of launch, space flight, and reentry;

(f) a step for subjecting said private customer to neutral buoyancy experiences and environment; and

(g) a step for providing certification of space flight qualification to the private customer upon completion of the previous steps,

wherein the method is performed independently of whether the private customer travels into space, further wherein at least one of steps (c) to (f) is performed using, at least in part, space flight related equipment.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein step (a) is performed, at least in part, on a computer.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the space flight related equipment

comprises at least one of a space flight suit, a spacecraft, a simulated spacecraft, a computer, software, a spacecraft component, a simulated spacecraft component, a hypobaric altitude chamber, and a centrifuge.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of enrolling the private customer into the space flight qualification program is performed, at least in part, on a computer.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the space flight related equipment comprises at least one of a space flight suit, a spacecraft, a simulated spacecraft, a computer, software, a spacecraft component, a simulated spacecraft component, a hypobaric altitude chamber, and a centrifuge.